

COMMUNITY SERVICE

“There is no danger in sharing, and the marvel of it is that you have little competition” – Dr A E Rupert

The structural changes which took place in the Group during the past year also had an influence on the programme of service to the community.

In the course of the merger of the Group's tobacco interests with those of British American Tobacco Plc., the biggest portion of existing community commitments were transferred to BAT. What have been retained are certain initiatives closely associated with Rembrandt as well as support of organisations with which the Group has historic ties.

Various new projects came on board, among which are the Southern African Wildlife College, the SA College for Tourism in Graaff-Reinet, a schools project at Jacobsdal in the Free State as well as the South African Golf Development Board.

The following are some highlights of projects and organisations in which the Group is actively involved:

ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND TRAINING

Business Trust – at the end of 1999, the Group made a grant of R30 million to the Business Trust in support of the latter's objectives to create jobs and to develop the country's manpower potential. The Trust was established in 1998 when listed and non-listed companies agreed to contribute according to a fixed formula to job creation and training.

The Group asked the Business Trust to divide its contribution of R30 million equally between the Southern African Wildlife College and the SA College for Tourism. The Trust has indicated that it will be sympathetic towards this request.

Helpmekaar Study Fund – for more than 80 years this organisation has been contributing to tertiary education, especially in the Western Cape. The Helpmekaar Study Fund is one of only a few organisations which lend money at reasonable interest rates to students for the duration of their courses.

The last contribution of a total grant of R1 million over five years will be made by the Group during the 2000/2001 financial year to support the Helpmekaar's

entrepreneurship programme. The objective of this programme is to help promising young people, who otherwise would have had problems in obtaining the necessary funds, to prepare themselves for careers as entrepreneurs and job creators.

SA College for Tourism – this college, which was established with funding from the Rupert Family Foundations, will initially concentrate on the training of entrepreneurs in the hospitality industry. The focus will be on adults who are interested to be trained as owners and managers of guest-houses.

The first students are expected to register early next year. People from rural areas in the vicinity of the country's nature parks will be targeted for training in the following three areas: entrepreneurship, hospitality studies and cultural- and ecotourism, and community development.

Southern African Wildlife College – since its opening in 1997, this college near Hoedspruit has gone from strength to strength. The objectives of this regional initiative are to motivate the managers of conservation areas in Southern Africa and to equip them with the necessary skills in managing their areas in a sustainable manner. The first diploma course and the second certificate course of the college were successfully concluded with a diploma ceremony in December 1999.

ENVIRONMENT

World Wide Fund for Nature South Africa (WWF-SA) – as a founder member, the Group has, since 1968, supported the objectives of this nature conservation organisation which is continuously facing new challenges because of the huge development needs in the region. During the past year WWF-SA has supported 230 projects, highlights of which are the following:

WWF-SA's 11 year campaign to establish a national park in the Succulent Karoo finally came to fruition when the first national park in Namaqualand, the Namaqua National Park of 50 000 ha, was proclaimed in August 1999. The first step to achieve this objective was taken more than a decade ago when, through a donation by Dr Rupert,

WWF-SA was able to buy a piece of land of 930 ha near Kamieskroon, today known as the Skilpad Wildflower Reserve.

Property of great significance was bought in the Northern Province for the Vhembe/Dongola National Park. It will form part of the proposed Limpopo Transnational Conservation Area which is jointly being planned with Botswana and Zimbabwe in partnership with the Peace Parks Foundation.

WWF's international *Living Planet Campaign* is making good progress on behalf of conservation world-wide. WWF-SA's contribution, *Campaign 2000*, aims to assist with the conservation of the country's remaining natural resources. The Group contributed R500 000 to this campaign during the past year.

CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

The *Rembrandt van Rijn Art Foundation* currently presents a unique photo-essay of the Namib by the Swiss photo essayist Hansruedi Büchi. This travelling exhibition which, to date, has been exhibited in six of the main centres and visited by approximately 36 000 people, is compiled of big format photographs. It will also shortly be seen in Namibia. Press reports and public comments have been favourable and appreciation has been expressed for the opportunity to see these extraordinary photographs.

Historical Homes of South Africa has since 1966 been involved in the conservation of historical buildings on a purely business basis. Neatly restored buildings are an asset and a steady source of tourism income which enable many small towns to function as proper economic units in the absence of factories. They also provide a valuable stimulus for job creation through the hotel and guest-house industry.

Cape Philharmonic Orchestra (CPO) – when some years ago the CPO was threatened with closing down, a fate shared by many other orchestras at present, the Group came out in support of efforts to help safeguard the future of the CPO as a cultural asset for the Western Cape. To support this drive, the Group pledged R1.5 million over five years.

SPORT DEVELOPMENT

SA Golf Development Board (SAGDB) – the Group is a founder member of this organisation which was established on 1 August 1999 with the aim of making golf more accessible to South African youth, and especially for those from deprived communities.

SAGDB, which was registered as a section 21 company, enjoys the support of all the official golfing bodies in the country as well as that of the Minister of Sport. For development purposes, the country has been divided into ten regions. The SAGDB will strive to increase the number of participants significantly and in such a way that they will reflect the demography of the country. During the past year the Group contributed R500 000 to this initiative.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Organ Donor Foundation of SA – the Group is grateful to report that the aircraft and staff of Falconair once again made a valuable contribution to assist those patients who were waiting for life-sustaining organs. During the past year five flights, often on short notice and in the middle of the night, were undertaken to transport organs for critical operations.

Jacobsdal Schools Project – the Group's involvement in this project originated from a visit initiated by the former President, Mr Nelson Mandela, to the Panorama School in Jacobsdal in May last year. During the visit the educational needs of this irrigation area in the Free State were spelt out to the Group. After discussions with the local community, the Group agreed to build two primary schools for 350 and 250 learners at an estimated total cost of R7 million.

The first phase of the project involved the reintroduction of a bus service at a cost of R483 362 to transport the children daily from the irrigation area to schools in Jacobsdal. The service had earlier been terminated because of a lack of funds.

In the second phase nine mobile classrooms were transported to the designated stands at a cost of R105 127 to ensure normal teaching in the first quarter of 2000. It is estimated that the construction phase will be completed by the end of the third quarter this year.